



NEWS RELEASE

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Final Defendant Convicted in Christmas Murder Case

The fourth and final defendant in the 2010 murder of a Los Angeles woman killed on Christmas night in front of her toddler daughter has been convicted, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Antonella Nistorescu of the Hardcore Gang Division said Derrick Williams, 20, was convicted yesterday of the first-degree murder of Kashmier James and the attempted, premeditated murder of a second victim in case BA388294.

Jurors found true a special circumstance allegation that the defendant killed the victims while he was an active member of a criminal street gang. Gun and gang allegations also were found to be true.

Williams returns for sentencing on Sept. 16 in Department 109 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. He faces a sentence of 50 years to life in state prison.

Because Williams was 15 years old at the time of the offenses, he is ineligible for a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Last week, gunman Darnell Houston, 38, and getaway-driver Lamar McKnight, 28, were convicted of one count each of special circumstance murder and attempted, premeditated murder with gun and gang allegations. After a day of deliberations, jurors also found true a special circumstance allegation that the defendants killed the victim while they were active members of a criminal street gang.

Houston and McKnight also are expected to be sentenced on Sept. 16 in Department 109 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Houston and McKnight face a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Co-defendant Ezekiel Simon, 20, is awaiting sentencing on Aug. 19. Simon faces 29 years in state prison.

The prosecutor said the defendants – documented members of the 111 Neighborhood Crips criminal street gang – went looking for rivals in the area of 85th Street and Western Boulevard in Los Angeles on the night of Dec. 25, 2010.

When the defendants came across a man and a woman standing outside of a car talking, Houston exited the vehicle and ran toward the victims, firing multiple rounds from a handgun.

Victim Kashmir James was fatally shot. Her child, who was in the front seat of the car, and a second adult victim were uninjured. The victims were not gang members.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.